

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2610

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10309

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, MT, UK

SUBJECT: MINTOFF VISIT TO LONDON

REF: GENEVA 5065, LONDON 10176

SUMMARY. MINTOFF CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH JULY 2 MAINLY
COMPRISED DIATRIBE BY MINTOFF AGAINST USSR PRESENCE AND
ACTIVITIES IN MEDITERRANEAN. HE SAW MALTA CSCE PROPOSAL
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AS A PROTECTION AGAINST SUPERPOWER DOMINATION OF MEDITER-

RANEAN AND GAVE NO GROUND ON ITS SUBSTANCE. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT ALLOW CSCE TO PROCEED BY NOT ATTENDING HELSINKI SUMMIT HIMSELF. UK SUGGESTED COMPROMISE PROPOSALS ON HANDLING MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEM IN CSCE BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. CRISPIN TICKELL OF FCO GAVE US A REPORT ON THE JULY 2 MEETING BETWEEN MALTA PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF AND UK OFFICIAL GROUP HEADED BY FCO MINISTER ROY HATTERSLEY. TICKELL SAID THAT MEETING WAS CORDIAL BUT MOSTLY A ONE MAN SHOW WITH MINTOFF DOING MOST OF THE TALKING. WHEN BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES DID MAKE STATEMENTS, MINTOFF ATTACKED THEM AS IF PARTICIPATING IN A DEBATING SOCIETY TOURNAMENT.

2. MINTOFF OPENED CONVERSATION WITH GLOOMY PREDICTION THAT HOSTILITIES WILL SOON RESUME IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MOSTLY BECAUSE OF A GROWING SPLIT IN THE ARAB WORLD BETWEEN HARD LINERS AND COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ISRAELIS. THE ONLY BENEFACTOR OF RESUMED HOSTILITIES, MINTOFF SAID, WOULD BE THE RUSSIANS. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE THEIR PRESENCE IN THE AREA WITH THE AIM OF DOMINATION. (THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO NOTED AS A NEGATIVE FACTOR BUT NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.) THE POINT OF ALL THIS IS THAT A STRONG CSCE MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA FROM RUSSIAN DOMINANCE.

3. TICKELL SAID THAT BRITISH RESPONDED THAT CSCE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A SECURITY TREATY BUT AS A DECLARATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO BETTER RELATIONS IN EUROPE IF ALL PARTIES MAKE AN EFFORT TO LIVE UP TO THE OBJECTIVES AS AGREED. BEST WAY TO TAKE CARE OF MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEM WOULD BE FOR CSCE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES TO BE INVOLVED AND THUS TO IMPLY A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NON-PARTICIPATING STATES AND FOLLOW-UP. BRITISH KEPT TRYING TO SUGGEST THAT THEY COULD HELP IN SITUATION BY IMPROVING DRAFTING OF CSCE DOCUMENTS BUT MINTOFF DID NOT RESPOND ON ANY SPECIFIC POINTS.

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4. MINTOFF SAID HE WAS MOST ANGRY ABOUT GROMYKO LETTER ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR JULY CSCE SUMMIT WHICH MINTOFF FOUND TO BE ONE OF "MOST OFFENSIVE" LETTERS HE HAD EVER RECEIVED. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE MIGHT ALLOW CSCE SUMMIT TO PROCEED BY NOT ATTENDING -- AND THUS NOT ASSOCIATING MALTA WITH "HYPOCRITICAL" DOCUMENT.

RICHARDSON

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